



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702

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Public Comment Period on an Amendment for a Charter Vessel/Headboat Permit Moratorium in Federal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico

NOAA Fisheries announces that the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council has submitted to NOAA Fisheries an amendment for a charter vessel/headboat permit moratorium amending the fishery management plans for the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic (Amendment 14) and the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico (Amendment 20) for review, approval, and implementation. Amendments 14 and 20 would establish a 3-year moratorium on the issuance of charter vessel or headboat (for-hire) permits for the reef fish fishery and coastal migratory pelagics fishery in Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. In addition, as a consequence of the proposed moratorium, the current charter vessel/headboat permit for coastal migratory pelagic fish would have to be restructured as separate permits for the Gulf and South Atlantic. Written comments are requested from the public and must be received on or before April 29, 2002.

Comments on Amendments 14 and 20 should be sent to Phil Steele, NMFS, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702. Comments may also be sent to Phil Steele via FAX to (727) 570-5583. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the Internet.

Copies of Amendments 14 and 20 which include an environmental assessment, a regulatory impact review, and copies of two related minority reports opposing implementation of the proposed moratorium may be obtained from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619; telephone (813) 228-2815; FAX (813)-225-7015; e-mail: Gulf.Council@noaa.gov or can be viewed at the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's website at <http://www.gulfcouncil.org/downloads/CBAmendmentFINAL.pdf>.

To obtain considerable recorded information about our missions, services, and management measures, call our toll free public service line at 1-866-570-5301. If the information you need is not available on that line, you can leave us a message and we'll get back to you within one business day.

NOAA Fisheries is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.